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Kimberly Snow

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/753,309
Applicant : Eldridge et al.
Filed : December 29, 2000
TC/A.U. : 2827
Examiner : D. Graybill

Confirmation No. 7839

Docket No. : P60D1-US

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

Applicants provide the following response to the Communication dated July 1, 2003 in the above identified patent application. In the Communication dated July 1, 2003, the Examiner finds the Amendment mailed February 24, 2003 not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because distinctions believed to render newly presented claims 65-82 were not discussed.

Newly presented claim 65 depends from independent claim 8. It is therefore patentable at least for the same reasons as claim 8, which reasons were discussed in the "Remarks" section of the Amendment mailed February 24, 2003.

Newly added independent claims 66, 73, and 78 distinguish over Puar, Bell, and the other references of record at least for the following reasons. In claim 66, a special contact structure is electrically connected to a second input/output buffer circuit, which is smaller than the input/output buffer circuit to which a first contact structure is connected. In claim 73, a special contact structure is electrically connected to a second electrostatic discharge protection means, which provides less protection than the electrostatic discharge protection means to which a first contact structure is connected. In claim 78, a special contact structure is electrically connected to a selecting means for selecting one of two redundant circuit blocks. None of the cited references teaches or suggests such features. Newly added independent claims 66, 73, and 78 are therefore patentable over Puar, Bell, and the other references of record.

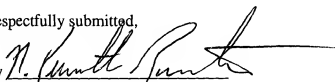
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Reply to Communication of July 1, 2003

Newly added claims 67-72, 74-77, and 79-82 depend from one of claims 66, 73, or 78 and are therefore also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all information necessary for a complete and full response to the prior Office Action has been provided. Applicants further assert that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 536-6763.

Respectfully submitted,

By


N. Kenneth Burraston
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Date: August 1, 2003

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